

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest -- or (to interpret charitably) at the very least, obligated to NOT CORRUPT the public interest. Unfortunately, it appears that Sinclair has fully immersed itself in today's corporate ethic of obsessively serving the "bottom line," public interest be damned. What the American public needs in televised news is not a slick, market-tested series of information morsels produced far away at "News Central." We need to see real people from our own communities - more substantive news about issues that matter to our daily lives. News is not entertainment, nor should it be.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.